

## Arkansas State University: *Common Core Boot Camp*

*Common Core Boot Camp* (ASU-CCBC) is a partnership between Arkansas State University and public and private schools in north central Arkansas. The high-needs focus school district is Southside School District in Batesville. The overarching goal of *Common Core Boot Camp* is to promote ideas and ways of thinking that contribute to greater student understanding of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics in grades 3-7 by engaging teachers in learning experiences that strengthen their content knowledge, teaching methods, and use of materials and technology. In 2011-2012, the project combined content knowledge of the concepts of fractions, decimals, percentages and proportional reasoning with the progression of these concepts in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for mathematics. In 2012-2013, the project will combine the content knowledge of the domains of geometry, and measurement and data, with the progression of these concepts in the CCSS for mathematics.

The following are objectives of the ASU-CCBC: By the end of year 2 of the project, 1) 80% of participants will increase their content knowledge of geometry and measurement and data as shown by a gain score of at least 20% using a valid and reliable content test; 2) 75% of participants will show an increase of 20% in levels of confidence in geometry and measurement and data based on CCSS for mathematics as measured by a self-efficacy survey and classroom observations using the Reformed Teaching Observation Protocol (RTOP); and, 3) 70% of the participants will have increased their use of technology in teaching as measured by self-reporting, classroom observations, and/or assessment by their administrators.

Professional development for the project will begin in October 2012 and participants will attend Saturday sessions in October, January, February, March and April. In November, participants will attend sessions targeting CCSS at the Arkansas Curriculum Conference. During the spring of 2013, teachers will engage in at least 10 hours of online professional development. The grant-supported activities will close with an intensive eight-day institute in June 2013. In addition to Blackboard learning being used for the online professional development, the platform will also be used throughout the year as a repository for professional articles and activities so teachers have continuous access to these resources. Twenty-one teachers will participate in at least 100 hours of professional development, and approximately 500 students will be served by these teachers.

All information developed throughout the project will be available through the ASU Rural STEM Education Center and a summary of the results will be posted on their website. Lessons written by participants will be uploaded to the ASU Lesson Portal for use by all mathematics teachers in the state. Results from the project will also be disseminated in peer-reviewed journals and at professional conferences.

The evaluation plan for the project utilizes a multifaceted approach – utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. A comparison group of teachers and students will also be recruited to participate, resulting in a quasi-experimental design. Comparison data will be collected, including outcome data and demographics.